Trinity Lutheran Church
Ashland, Ohio
June 30, 2013
In the late fifties, Trinity had become a large congregation struggling with inadequate facilities in an 1885 church “plant.” Located at the corner of Church and Third Streets in downtown Ashland, it had nowhere to grow for educational space and no dedicated parking or outdoor space. Repairs were a constant expense and becoming more serious. Still, the congregation was torn about leaving the church building. The decision to relocate was mobilized in 1959 by the gift to the church of the home and gardens of the late Mrs. Kate Myers by her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Myers Mitchell. The home was advantageously located in a historic residential area of Ashland and offered much-needed space for worship, education, activities and parking.

After much discussion, the congregation voted to accept the Myers property and twenty-four room home and then to purchase additional nearby properties. As planning progressed, it was decided to utilize the spacious rooms of the home for classrooms and meeting areas and to build a new church building adjacent to the home. Then came many hours of planning and decision-making and several years of fundraising, raising approximately $600,000. Construction began with groundbreaking in January 1962 and continued for the next eighteen months. At last, on June 30, 1963, the congregation held the dedication service and the first confirmation at the new church at 508 Center Street.

By 1967, the debt for the church building was completely paid, with the entire property valued at $1,100,000. On June 25, 1967, the congregation held a thanksgiving service followed by a reception for the congregation and a dinner for the Church Council and the Building Committee.

Church records show that during the seven years the congregation had been paying for its building the wider work of the Church was not neglected. $161,430 was given to the work of the Lutheran Church in America and the Ohio Synod and a total of $42,654 to other benevolent causes. In addition the congregation continued its usual worship schedule and ministries to members and the community.

It would be too easy to just celebrate a beautiful structure. As we look back with the hindsight of five decades we want to celebrate the vision of the congregation which provided this space in order to minister in Christ’s name, and to take a moment to remember the sacrifices of time and thought and prayer and resources given to the glory of God.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1960 INFORMATION FOR SITES</th>
<th>1885 CHURCH CORNER OF CHURCH &amp; 3RD STS.</th>
<th>1963 CHURCH 508 CENTER STREET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGE OF BUILDINGS</td>
<td>Church - 75 years old</td>
<td>Church - Brand New Home - 45 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEATING CAPACITY OF SANCTUARY</td>
<td>450 seats (includes 125-150 in Sunday)</td>
<td>612 seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS</td>
<td>13 rooms</td>
<td>26 rooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIZE OF PROPERTY</td>
<td>.426 acres</td>
<td>3.256 acres 2.766 acres-Myers gift + .49 acres-purchased properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESTIMATED COST OF PLANT</td>
<td>$600,000-$700,000 (rebuilding on current site)</td>
<td>$450,000 (construction of new church building attached to home)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARKING</td>
<td>0 spaces</td>
<td>100 spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANDSCAPING</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>many gardens, trees and plantings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSERY</td>
<td>Makeshift area in primary department</td>
<td>35' x 19' room which can be divided into two rooms and has bathroom facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADDITIONAL FEATURES IN NEW CHURCH</td>
<td>+ Larger Nave, Sacristy and Narthex</td>
<td>+ Public address system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Free-standing marble altar; room for 40 to commune</td>
<td>+ Organ Chamber behind altar for improved sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Youth and Adult Sunday School rooms</td>
<td>+ Office area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Lounge and recreation areas</td>
<td>+ Large multi-purpose Parish Hall with Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Chime amplification through church tower speakers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Mother's Room with soundproofing and visibility of service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Hallways, stairways and a breezeway connecting the Church with the Home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1960 COMPARISON BETWEEN OLD CHURCH AND NEW CHURCH**
### TIMELINE - TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S TRANSITION TO 508 CENTER STREET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1952-1956</td>
<td>Constant repairs and upgrades being made to walls, floors, ceilings, roof, basement, wiring, heat, windows and plumbing at Trinity Lutheran Church, Corner of Church &amp; 3rd Sts. Many discussions concerning the condition of the &quot;church plant&quot; and increasing needs of the congregation for space, inside and out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr '57</td>
<td>Tragic death in auto accident of Kate Moore Myers (Mrs. Guy C. Myers), long-time faithful member of Trinity and resident and owner of home and property at 508 Center St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul '58</td>
<td>Building Committee appointed to gather facts and figures to either relocate or renovate church structure at Church &amp; 3rd Sts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May '59</td>
<td>Offer to Trinity of the 24-room home and 3 acre property at 508 Center Street by Elizabeth (Zibby) Myers Mitchell, daughter of Kate &amp; Guy Myers and grand-daughter of P.A. &amp; Samantha Myers, original owners of the 1915 home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun '59</td>
<td>Gift of Myers home and gardens (including McNabb property) accepted. Purchase of adjoining Nickles and Gates properties approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul '59</td>
<td>H.P. Demand &amp; Assoc. hired to lead the fund drive. Wefel &amp; Wefel hired to design architectural plans for new church property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec '59</td>
<td>&quot;We Build for Christ&quot; campaign goal set at $450,000 and Feb. 15 - Mar 27, 1960 set for seeking pledges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec '60</td>
<td>Building Fund Balance: $145,165 - pledges total $367,000. Deed for Myers property received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb '61</td>
<td>Congregational open house held in Myers Home. Congregation accepted preliminary plans and approved proceeding with detailed drawings by Wefel &amp; Wefel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul '61</td>
<td>Building plans of Wefel &amp; Wefel accepted. Total cost of project estimated at $542,385.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct '61</td>
<td>Church property at Church &amp; 3rd Sts. listed with Carl C. Ward, Realtor, at $80,000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov '61</td>
<td>H. C. Wheeler hired as general contractor for new church. Borrowing of a maximum of $150,000 approved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec '61</td>
<td>Congregation officially voted to build new church building at 508 Center Street.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan '62</td>
<td>Groundbreaking Ceremony held Jan. 21.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar '62</td>
<td>Excavation at 508 Center Street begun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun '62</td>
<td>Final Vacation Bible School at old church. Stained glass windows removed and taken to Winterich's Studio, Bedford, Ohio to be repaired and worked into panels for new church. New church foundation 90% completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep '62</td>
<td>1884 Cornerstone at old church opened. New Cornerstone laid in place, including some items from the old cornerstone. Council and Building Committee requested that members complete original pledges and prayerfully consider additional giving through a second campaign. Goal for “We Give for Christ” is $184,565, intended to eliminate all building debt as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov '62</td>
<td>Roof of new church completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan '63</td>
<td>Sale of the church property at Church &amp; 3rd Sts. to Robert Ward I for $50,000 (commission waived).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb '63</td>
<td>Vacating of two public alleys on Center Street property approved by Ashland City Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May '63</td>
<td>Myers Memorial Organ (1930) moved to Schantz Organ Co. at Orrville Ohio for repairs, additions and replacement of console. Need to start borrowing in June to pay all bills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun '63</td>
<td>Final wedding (Wertz-Miller) at old church. Final class of graduating seniors (first class from new AHS) honored at service at old church. Final service at old church and &quot;de-sacralization of the old plant&quot; of seventy-eight years. June 30th Dedication of new church and first Confirmation at new church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul '63</td>
<td>First wedding (Campbell-Tutt) at new church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug '63</td>
<td>Demolition of old church (current site of Professional Building). First Vacation Bible School at new church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun '67</td>
<td>June 24th Service of Thanksgiving, commemorating the fourth anniversary and retiring the debt for the new church, including &quot;recognition and dismissal of the Building Committee followed by a burning of the notes.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 2013</td>
<td>50TH Jubilee Celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church at 508 Center Street.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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From the Prayer at the Groundbreaking Service, January 21, 1962:

“Eternal God, we thank Thee that Thou hast brought us to this hour… Without Thee we can do nothing; with Thee we can do all things… May we build a plant where Thy Way will be taught and the people of this community will learn to know the Lord Jesus Christ Whom we worship and serve.”

From the June 30, 1963 bulletin’s message from Pastor Kinsey and Pastor Streich:

“With grateful hearts we come to this day of dedication. After years of praying, planning, giving, and working, we have been permitted by Almighty God in His kind providence to finish the task. May our Church be a holy place of worship, May our children learn here the Way of Life. May the Gospel always be preached and the Sacraments rightly administered in this place....”
CHURCH COUNCIL

1962
Herb Ganyard
Herb Hoffman
Harry Shenberger

1962-1963
Gene Burns, Sec’y
George Brock, Treas.
Russ Harpster
Dr. Robert Howell
Paul Kopp
Dr. Fred Little (’62 V.P.)
Tom Quong
Harold Sackett
Paul Simmons
Carl Spears
Walt Wierbiki
Bob Zehner (’63 V.P.)
Ray Zehner

1963
Richard Budd
Charles Campbell
John C. Myers Jr.
Lawrence Hazen

1962-1967 BUILDING COMMITTEE

FRONT ROW: Marjorie Ginn, George Gongwer, Carol Rogers, Elizabeth Martin,
Herb Hoffman (chairman), Marshall Smith
BACK ROW: Berlin Shenberger, Bob Ingmand, T. W. Miller, Jr., Pastor Robert S. Kinsey,
Pastor Charles R. Streich, Lou Fritz, Herb Ganyard, Virgil Wertz, J. Webster Burns

1962 ALTAR GUILD
Ruth Cole
Helen Dana
Pauline Ferguson
Helen Fluke
Biddie Fritz
Peg Fulton
Harriett Howell
Louise LaFrance
Zepha Lechleitner
Phyllis Nelson
Fern Semans
Luzetta Yeater

1963 ALTAR GUILD
Ruth Cole
Helen Dana
Pauline Ferguson
Biddie Fritz
Marilyn Harpster
Harriett Howell
Louise LaFrance
Zepha Lechleitner
Fern Semans
Phyllis Smith
Luzetta Yeater
Gwen Zehner

PARISH EDUCATION
Merle Plice
Ernest Beck
Bob Zehner
Robert Groff
Glenn Thompson
Dr. Bob Howell
Mrs. Doyle Saner
Mrs. Frank Parker
Mrs. Merle Sickmiller
Mrs. Phillip Diebler
Berlin Shenberger, Chair
Mrs. Ed Moffett
Mrs. Joseph Swineford
Mrs. Donald Harpster
Mrs. William Howell
Mrs. Russell Harpster
Mrs. Michael J. Patrick
Mrs. Paul Keetle
Mrs. Calvin Rogers
Miss Meredith Cole
Miss Myriam Long

COMMITTEES:
Communion (4 times per year), Chancel, Flowers

Happy 50th, Trinity!
1962 AND 1963 TRINITY STAFF
Pastors: Dr. Robert S. Kinsey, Pastor Charles R. Streich
Minister of Music and Organist: Mabel Zehner
Secretary: Mildred Baker
Financial Secretaries: Portia Burns, Marie Sponsler
Building Fund Treasurer: Duane Plice
Custodians: Alex and Wally Koep
Groundskeeper: Roy Spring

1962 TRINITY GROUPS (as listed in Pastors Report, Jan. ‘62)
CHOIRS: Senior Choir, Junior Choir (4th, 5th, 6th grades), Luther Choir (7th & 8th grades)
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 726 enrolled, 45 classes
ULCW: Dor Topping, President, 13 circles, 300 women enrolled
ULCM: Chris Forsythe, President, 85 men enrolled
CATECHECTICAL CLASSES: 4 classes of 7th and 8th graders
BIBLE CLUB, JUNIOR HIGH LEAGUE, SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE

TRINITY STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Confirmed Members</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>1411</td>
<td>$51,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>$52,607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>1310</td>
<td>$56,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>1339</td>
<td>$59,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>1349</td>
<td>$60,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1284</td>
<td>$63,211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>1299</td>
<td>$65,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>1317</td>
<td>* $67,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>$70,532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1372</td>
<td>$1,179,312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*estimated

TRINITY STATISTICS

From the June 30, 1963 Dedication Service bulletin:
“Sincere thanks to all who helped in any way, financially and otherwise, to make this House of God possible.”
The quality of sound is enhanced in the “new” church because the organ pipes were placed in an organ chamber behind the altar rather than to the side where they had been in the “old” church.
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

In 1963, eight of the stained glass windows from the “old” church at Church & Third Streets were brought to the “new” church on Center Street. They were repaired and incorporated into 48 foot areas of windows on each side of the new sanctuary. Unfortunately, the Rose Window’s glass had deteriorated too much to be used. New pieces are “The Symbol Medallions” added by Winterich’s Studio throughout the sanctuary. In other areas of the church old window tops were combined with modern glass pieces to match the flow of the sanctuary windows. (If you are interested in more information, a very informative booklet written by the 2007 Stained Glass Committee is available - *Windows and Symbols, Trinity Lutheran Church.*


A message from Pastor Mitchell:

It has been good for those of us who have benefited from the efforts of previous generations to take opportunity to celebrate what they did 50 years ago. Those generations laid a strong foundation for the worship life of this congregation for these past 50 years. It was a major effort, filled with uncertainty, (Will there be enough money? Will it turn out to be useful and inspiring for our worship?) hard work and a strong financial commitment on the part of the congregation.

It has worked well! All of Ashland has benefited from the sturdy congregation Trinity has been all these years. The Lord has blessed us through their efforts!

In Christ,

Pastor Mitchell

A message from Pastor Jeff:

Fifty years ago, on June 30th, 1963 I was two years AND two weeks old as a rather young participant on the day of Trinity’s new Sanctuary Dedication at 508 Center Street. Fifty years later, now at age fifty-two AND two weeks, now as a pastor at Trinity, when asked to plan a theme for this auspicious day the first thought that came to mind was the word “JUBILEE”…A Jubilee, over the years, has come to be defined as “a specially celebrated anniversary, especially a 50th Anniversary.” 

The reason for that traces back to our Old Testament heritage as Christians when God’s people, the Jews, celebrated a custom called “The Years of Jubilee.” Basically, every fifty years the Jewish law commanded God’s people to release any sold land and/or slaves back to their original owners. For those who were released from their debts, it was a time of natural jubilation. The announcement of the beginning of the celebration would commence with the blowing of a Shofar (A Ram’s Horn).

And so, we celebrate our own “JUBILEE” here at Trinity with “The King’s Brass” sounding forth our own sense of jubilation rejoicing in what God has down in our midst….Fifty years of God’s work here at 508 Center Street! We have much to be thankful for reflecting back on the faith-filled journey (though not a long one geographically) that a group of hardy Lutherans made from Church & 3rd Streets downtown up to this hilltop. As Heb. 11:1 reminds us: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Those faithful Trinity folk fifty years ago could’ve never foreseen the amazing fruit of their momentous decisions. And yet, we who celebrate today can attest with thanksgiving to their faith. And so let us celebrate a “JUBILEE” of our own!

Faithfully,

Pastor Jeff Messner

A message from Pastor Bob:

An ancient hymn began, “We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing.” So it has been for fifty years as Trinity Congregation has utilized this fine facility as our house of worship and service to our Lord.

This day we acknowledge and give thanks to God for his many blessings that have come and have been given by way of Trinity Lutheran Church.

For this we thank God,

Pastor Robert Pflueger
A message from Pastor Carl:

[Confirmed in 1962 at the “old” church - Acolyte at the 1963 dedication of the “new” church - Ordained in 1977 at the “new” church]

Thank you for your very gracious invitation to attend Trinity’s celebration of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the “new” church on Center Street. While I would love to attend this special event my duties here will prevent me from being with you.

Please pass along my best wishes to the members of the congregation. I can still remember the events leading up to the “big move”- the reading of the letter in church announcing the gift of the Myers property, the presentation of the model of the proposed building, and the de-consecration of the old worship space and its furnishings. I was excited to serve as acolyte for the dedication service and remember being awed by the height of the new candles. We knew at the time that we were living in a significant moment in Trinity’s history.

My best wishes and prayers go with Trinity as it continues to speak the Good News to the generations.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Phillip A. Carl
Pastor, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Reston, Virginia

A message from Pastor Streich:

Pastor Mitchell received a delightful telephone call from Pastor Chuck Streich who is currently living in a retirement village in North Carolina. He remembered well the opportunity Trinity took to move to 508 Center Street. He has followed the efforts of the congregation in the intervening years and is delighted at the excellent way the building has been used to strengthen the work of the Lord in Ashland. He is unable to travel at this point in his life, but he sends his best wishes - “May almighty God continue to bless your day of celebration and continue to lead your ministry as Pastor and people in grace and love.”

Pastor Charles R. Streich
SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Tim Zimmermann and the King’s Brass for their music this Sunday morning
Jen Wash for preparing the display in the large glass display case
Curt Pinkley for making the video: 50 Years - Celebrating the Sanctuary at TLC
Kathy Shelly for her work on the PowerPoint presentation: 50 Years at 508
Sunday School students for their contributions to the Jubilee display
Rita’s Catering for preparing and serving our picnic lunch
Wendy Shreffler and her Adult and Youth Volunteers and the coordination of setup
Randy Smith and Larry Spoon for all their extra time and efforts
All who have helped make this a jubilant occasion!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRINITY’S MOVE TO 508 CENTER STREET:

+ Visit our historical displays in the Music Room hallway, Social Corner and glass display cases in the North hallway.
+ View the PowerPoint slide show on the screens in Jack’s Place and the hallway monitors. The slides and the video will also soon be available on our website, www.trinityashland.org
+ Attend the encore showing of Curt Pinkley’s 50 Years - Celebrating the Sanctuary at TLC during the August Forum at 9:30 a.m. on August 4th. Those interviewed for their thoughts and reflections included Steve Burns, Tom Burns, Marilyn Harpster, Cuda and Bud Ingmand, Wanda Kerr, Bob May, Pastor Mitchell, Carol and Dick Obrecht, Lee Smeltzer, Lauretta Wertz and Tom Winemiller.

From the June 25, 1967 Service of Thanksgiving bulletin:

“Continue to inspire us to use these modern facilities for Thy Glory and Honor.

Here may each find rest for his soul and inspiration for his everyday life.”